

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Sato Umabe

TPHS Teacher

Japanese Language



I am Sato Umabe, a Japanese teacher at Torrey Pines High School. I have been teaching all levels of Japanese courses, from beginner to AP, at TPHP since 2004.

I grew up in Wakayama, Japan. Both of my parents are devoted teachers, and this had a great impact on my decision to choose education as my career. After graduating from Rikkyo University in Tokyo, Japan, I received the Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholarship to attend Indiana University, Bloomington to earn a master's degree. Initially, my plan was to go into educational policy-making. However, attending local Rotary Club meetings and interacting with members of the community inspired me to change my career path and move into a grass-roots level of international exchange. This was when I added language education courses to my field of study, and decided to pursue the goal of becoming a Japanese language teacher.

After I finished my Masters degree, I drove across the United States and had many adventures. When I saw San Diego, I knew this was where I wanted to settle down. I was thrilled to take a job at TPHP. In San Diego I've enjoyed watching baseball and playing golf. This city has many amazing golf courses, and the highlight of my summer is usually playing a round at Torrey Pines Golf Course with a beautiful sunset.

I am grateful for being given this incredible opportunity to help TPHP students to learn about Japanese culture beyond the walls of the classroom. We have a Japanese Club and Japanese National Honor Society, where we interact with many Japanese organizations in San Diego. Also, we've done authentic cultural and language exchanges between TPHP and students who attend Japanese high schools. I am very proud of being a Falcon and look forward to serving many more years at this wonderful school.

WE ARE TP!